

REMARKS

The Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

US '425 does not teach or suggest the presently claimed invention where a finely divided substrate has directly thereon a material having a hardness ≥ 7 on the Mohs hardness scale.

Instead US '425 teaches plane-parallel structures where, e.g., silicon dioxide is condensed onto a carrier, which condensed silicon dioxide detaches from the carrier to form the product. In this regard, the carrier is pre-coated with a separating agent, which is later dissolved to achieve the separation of the product from the carrier. See, e.g., the abstract. Thus, the coating of silicon dioxide is not directly on the carrier, direct meaning "there are no further interlayers between the substrate and the impermeable coating." See, e.g., the specification at the top of page 4. Also, the carrier is not a finely divided substrate. US '425 describes the carrier on column 4, lines 58-63, as one or more disks, cylinders, or other rotationally symmetric bodies, which preferably consist of one or more continuous metal belts.

The Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

The formality issues are moot in view of the amendments to the form of the claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

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